

# ...student vote wooed

leave to seek work elsewhere, again paying board away from home."

So Cameron makes it very clear that he is in favour of make-work projects, believing the government has a very definite responsibility to provide not just jobs, but meaningful jobs in the areas where people live.

As Development Minister in the late Regan Government, he administered many of those schemes and knows they were frequently criticized, even by the students employed, as meaningless and useless. That is why he likes ideas such as the Main Street improvement plan, where students can work in their own communities to improve it, and earn the respect of their families and relatives for doing such useful work.

Vince MacLean, as MLA from high unemployment Cape Breton County, was concerned that the announcement of a 2000 job summer employment program from Provincial Development Minister Rollie Thornhill was so vague that it just might be the re-announcement of traditional government summer work for students.

"In my old department, Lands and Forests, we have always hired 500 young people to cut brush. But when we were in government, we announced 4 to 5,000 additional jobs on top of this."

Sandy Cameron is not convinced that Maritime tuition fees, highest in the country, are causing students to leave for schools elsewhere. He thinks they simply discourage

kids from going to university, period. He says that over 3 or 4 years, annual tuition hikes of a hundred dollars start to add up, so he would look sympathetically upon any request by the Maritime Provinces



Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) to raise the bursary amount and lower the amount that must be paid back as a loan.

Vince MacLean has his response to this down pat.

"Raise the total amount available for students who take honours or MAs beyond the current \$9000 level. Raise bursaries and loans if tuition continues to rise. End the

means test for loans but not for bursaries."

"The middle class," MacLean says, "are getting pretty hammered."

On the matter of university accountability, Maclean says that the Board of Governors at his local university, the College of Cape Breton, is pretty representative of the population. He can not speak for Dal's Board.

Cameron feels that in these days when the public provides most of the money for universities, it is no longer good enough to have major university decisions made by Boards largely made up of businessmen who are not responsible to the public.

As Development Minister during the time when the free-wheeling crown corporation MAGI bought the Mercator, he is obviously sincere when he says that universities like crown corporations and agencies generally that spend public money, must be responsible to people who can be thrown out at the next election.

MacLean hopes that greater government input into university decisions does not mean one central University of Nova Scotia because he would oppose that strongly. He likes the "independent character" of Nova Scotia's many colleges and observes that because the College of Cape Breton is in tune with the needs of its community, it set up a facility for research for coal research, something the much older and wealthier institutes in Halifax never got around to.

## The rites of Spring

by Estelle Small

It is spring again. Soon, the flowers will be in bloom as the days grow longer and the weather warmer. Does spring affect human behavior?

Inspector Grandy of the Criminal Investigation Branch for the Halifax police department would not speculate whether spring affects crime rates in the city.

More daylight hours could reduce the crime rate, although there are no statistics on it, he said in an interview.

Grandy said the crime rate in Halifax is "pretty consistent" all year round.

He said it is possible more daylight could cut down on minor housebreaks or motor vehicle thefts.

Dr. Bruce Moore, professor of psychology at Dalhousie University, would not venture to say if spring affects human behavior and knows of no studies that have been done on it.

Dr. Moore said hormonal changes on migratory birds are caused by external stimuli such as light cycles.

All migratory birds such as sparrows, swallows and some robins began to fly north again around April, he said, and begin their courtship period as soon as they arrive.

Due to the spring thaw, roads in the province have been affected by a reduced weight load for trucks and larger vehicles, said Don MacIntosh, assistant director of engineering for the Nova Scotia highways department.

He said weights on single axle vehicles are reduced to a weight load of 14,000 pounds from 20,000 pounds during the spring thaw, when the gravel in the pavement becomes weak.

He said the roads are then tested to measure how much the road is sinking until sometime in May when the pavement becomes more flexible.

However, people are still concerned about getting caught in a possible spring storm, said Frank Amirault, regional climatologist for the federal department of the environment.

"People are starting to get prepared for spring plowing and planting," he said.

So far, temperatures have been normal and precipitation has been about five millimeters—just above normal for this time of year, he said.

Amirault said the myths to forecast spring weather are disappearing in the younger generation, although older people still do it. He said weather can only be predicted three to five days in advance.

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tend off-campus to undermine the status of women in all of society.

The old cliché that 'young virile men' cannot control their 'animal urges' insults the intelligence of all thinking men as well as women, and it certainly cannot be used to excuse sexist behavior. This type of activity is not just harmless fun. I cannot buy that. I feel insulted and assaulted everytime one of these displays occurs. It is time people realized how harmful and vicious sexism really is.

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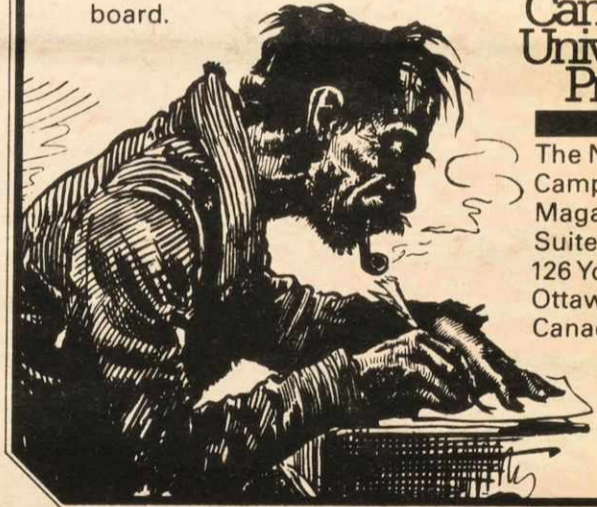
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